Political Science 142M: Regional Security (Fall 2012)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays after class 800 to 900 pm at Round Table Pizza in the Price Center

Course Description: This course examines contemporary security as a subfield of political science at the intersection of comparative politics and international relations. We visit four regions of the world (Latin America, East Asia, Europe, and the Middle East) and consider a variety of security related topics, including domestic politics, diplomatic history, military technology, drug trafficking, terrorism and insurgency, civil war, nuclear weapons, and energy security. Students from majors other than political science and international relations are welcome. We will occasionally have guest speakers to give the class additional expertise and perspective. Success in the class requires consistent attendance combined with dedication to the readings.

Readings: Students are normally responsible for three or four readings per week, typically running 100 to 150 pages. Students read all four selections for the introductory week and for the session they select for their literature review. Otherwise, three readings per week are normally required. Some readings are on UCSD electronic reserve by way of the password rw142m (consult Central Library if you don’t know how to access them;) some are on general access websites like the Army War College Strategic Studies Institute; and some should be accessible through UCSD data bases.

Exams and Quizzes: Tentatively, there will be one exam worth 50 per cent of the grade, although like everything about the course, that expectation is subject to change. Make up exams will only be offered for documented emergencies and those make up exams will be offered sometime during finals week. Quizzes running 12 minutes will be offered regularly, sometimes with guidance provided the week before in class (not by email) and sometimes not. Quizzes tend to help students by reducing the amount of material that needs to be reviewed for the exam (any material covered in a quiz does not need to be reviewed for the exam) and by raising the grade average since single question quizzes tend to be less challenging than multiple question exams. Quizzes also tend, on the other hand, to work to the disadvantage of students who miss class, although one quiz can be missed without penalty as the lowest scoring quiz will be dropped from the gradesheet. There will not be a quiz the night before Thanksgiving, but do not be surprised if there are two quizzes on one or both of the nights following Thanksgiving. Quizzes will be worth 25 per cent of the grade.

Papers: Students will write literature reviews synthesizing five reading selections from the syllabus. No outside research is required; two readings should come from one section of the syllabus, two should come from another section of the syllabus, and one can come from
anywhere on the syllabus. Additional guidance will be provided for the paper, be sure to follow the instructions meticulously. Papers are worth 25 per cent of the grade. Students may write and submit them in class anytime over the semester and but no later than 700 pm on December 13 in the final exam. Papers are not accepted by email and are only accepted in class or at the final exam session; they are punished a full grade for every day they are late or for being delivered to the wrong place or in the wrong way.

Readings (an asterisk * means go directly to the organization's website)

**Week One: (October 3) Introduction**

Finnegan, New Yorker, "The Kingpins: Letter from Mexico, the Fight for Guadalajara," The New Yorker (July 2, 2012.)

Timothy Garton Ash, "The Crisis of Europe," Foreign Affairs (September/October 2012.)


**Week Two (October 10) Mexico**


Kleiman, "Surgical Strikes in the Drug Wars," Foreign Affairs (September/October 2011.)


Finnegan, "Letter from Michoacan: Silver or Lead," (May 31, 2010.)

Recommended Movie: El Violin

**Week Three (October 17) South and Central America**

Mitchell Reiss, "Argentina and Brazil: Rivals Not Enemies," Bridled Ambition, Chapter 3.

Hylton, Evil Hour in Colombia, "Involution," pages 97 to 131.


Recommended Movie: Sin Nombre

**Week Four (October 24) West Europe**

Harries, "Britain and France as Nuclear Partners," Survival (February March 2012.)

Giles Kepel, Chapter The Battle for Europe, The War for Muslim Minds.


Keller, "Germany in NATO," Survival (June July 2012.)

Movie: The Lives of Others

**Week Five (October 31) European Union and NATO**


Papic, "The Divided States of Europe," STRATFOR (June 28, 2011.)

Giegerich and Nicoll, "The Struggle for Value in European Defense," Survival (February March 2012.)


Recommended Movie: Grand Illusion

**Week Six (November 7) Turkey**


Menon, "US and Turkey: End of an Alliance," Survival (Summer 2007.)


Filkins, "Letter from Turkey: The Deep State," New Yorker (March 12, 2012.)

Recommended Movie: Once Upon a Time in Anatolia

**Week Seven (November 14) Exam**

**Week Eight (November 21) Iran**


Keynoush, "Iran after Ahmadinejad," Survival (June July 2012.)


Recommended Movie: Body of Lies

**Week Nine** *(November 28)* **China and Southeast Asia**


Tyler, Chapter on Reagan, A Great Wall.


Gilley, "Not So Dire Straits," Foreign Affairs (Jan Feb 2010.)

Recommended Movie: Hero

**Week Ten: (December 5)** **Korea and Northeast Asia**

Funabashi, Chapter 6 or 7, Peninsula Question.


Gi-Wook Shin, "The Election that could Reorder South Korea's Politics," Current History (September 2012.)

Solingen, Chapter on Japan, Nuclear Logics.

Recommended Movie: Shiri

**Week Eleven: (Thursday December 13 700 pm)** **Papers Due**